


Subject: November 13 Public Hearing Statement
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From: "Katharine Delaney McLoughlin" <delany@bestweb.net>
To: <millennium.comments@noaa.gov>

Hello,
I am attaching the statement that I gave at the Millennium Pipeline Hearing on November 13, 2002.
Thank you.
Katharine D. McLoughlin
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Millennium Pipeline
Public Hearing of November 13, 2002
Tarrytown Hilton

Statement by Katharine D. McLoughlin
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Hello. I am Katharine McLoughlin, Westchester Chapter Director of the New York League of Conservation Voters. The primary mission of the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) is to elect candidates to public office who make environmental protection their top priority. NYLCV also speaks out on environmental issues of paramount importance. The proposed Millennium Pipeline is a project that will have significant and adverse environmental impacts throughout the Lower Hudson Valley region.

This afternoon I am focusing my comments on the environmental impacts of the proposed Pipeline on two life-sustaining natural resources. They are the: 1) Hudson River and 2) New Croton Watershed.

First, the Hudson River is the life of our lower Hudson River communities as well as the entire state of New York. The pipeline construction's disruption to the Hudson has been well documented. In fact, the Pipeline's disruptive impact forms some of the rationale for the New York Department of State's rejection of the proposed pipeline route through the Haverstraw Bay in Rockland County.

The Haverstraw Bay is a significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat. It is a unique bay for its estuary, and plays a role in the Atlantic Coast ecosystem. The New York Department of State found that the dredging and blasting necessary to construct the pipeline would have permanent and substantial damage to the Haverstraw Bay ecosystem.

The entire Hudson River has suffered and still suffers from years of degradation. For example, industries have dumped toxins and carcinogens into the Hudson. General Electric is now forced to dredge the PCB's in the upper Hudson River, Westchester County hosts two nuclear reactors on the River, and three wastewater treatment plants discharging treated sewage into the River. The Hudson River does not need additional negative impacts.

The second impact is on the New Croton Reservoir Watershed. This Watershed System is an unfiltered drinking water source for 900,000 people in New York City and Westchester County. The vulnerability of the drinking water has been documented by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation in its finding that the water quality is limited. The construction of the Pipeline will disrupt the water supply lands. It is ironic that while New York City spends millions of dollars to acquire land to protect the Watershed, the federal government might approve a project whose adverse impacts on the drinking water have been detailed by state agencies and environmental organizations.

These are two reasons to reject the currently proposed Millennium Pipeline route: the Hudson River, the life of our communities, and the Croton Watershed, providing drinking water to thousands.

The environmental risks of the Millennium Pipeline are clear. The benefits of the Millennium Pipeline have not been demonstrated to offset those risks.